

# Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXIV No. 2

Brentwood, New Hampshire

February 2010

## Candidates for Town and School Offices

The following filings for Town and School Offices were made during the required period from Jan. 20 – Jan. 29:

Office	<u>Selectmen</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years 1 for 1 year
Candidate(s)	<b>Jeffrey Bryan</b> (for 3 years) <b>John Garey</b> (for 3 years) <b>Allan Knowles</b> (for 3 years) <b>Kevin Johnston</b> (for 1 year)
Office	<u>Cemetery Trustees</u>
Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	<b>John Stevens</b>
Office	<u>Library Trustees</u>
Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	<b>Tracy Waldron</b>
Office	<u>Moderator</u>
Position Available	1 for 2 years
Candidate(s)	<b>Richard Chamberlain</b>
Office	<u>Municipal Budget Committee</u>
Positions Available	2 for 3 years 1 for 1 year
Candidate(s)	<b>Malcolm Allison</b> (for 3 years) <b>Ken Christiansen</b> (for 1 year) <b>Jason Clark</b> (for 1 year) <b>Elyse Gallo Seeley</b> (for 3 years)
Office	<u>Planning Board</u>
Positions Available	2 for 3 years 1 for 1 year
Candidate(s)	<b>Douglas Brenner</b> (for 3 years) <b>Bruce Stevens</b> (for 3 years)
Office	<u>Supervisors of the Checklist</u>
Position Available	1 for 6 years
Candidate(s)	<b>JoAnn Allison</b>

Office	<u>Trustees of the Trust Funds</u>
Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	<b>Eugene Orcutt</b>
Office	<u>School Board – Brentwood Dist.</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	<b>Linda R. Garey</b> <b>Krista Steger</b>
Office	<u>Cooperative School District Board</u>
Positions Available	1 from each town for 3 years
Candidate(s)	<b>Brentwood</b> <b>Elizabeth Faria *</b> <b>Exeter</b> <b>Katherine B. Miller *</b> <b>Kensington</b> <b>No one filed</b>
Office	<u>Cooperative School District Budget Advisory Committee</u>
Positions Available	1 from each town for 3 years
Candidate(s)	<b>Exeter</b> <b>Robert J. Aldrich *</b> <b>Newfields</b> <b>Simon J. Heslop *</b> <b>Stratham</b> <b>Lucy H. Cushman *</b>
Office	<u>Co-op. School Dist. Moderator</u>
Position Available	1 for 1 year
Candidate(s)	<b>Charles F. Tucker *</b>

\* Note: voters from all towns in the District may vote for these candidates.

**Candidates' Night, sponsored by the *Newsletter*, will be in the Cross Room at the Town Offices on Wednesday, February 17, starting at 7:30 p.m. We hope many of you will come to meet, hear and talk to the candidates.**

**TOWN OF BRENTWOOD On the Web: [www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov)****TOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR:**

Phone: 642-6400 X 14  
 Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9:00-4:30  
 Tuesday 9:00-8:00  
 Friday 8:30-4:00  
 Saturday 9:00-12:00

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310  
 Monday–Thursday 8:00-4:30  
 Friday 9:00-1:00

**MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY**

Phone: 642-3355 E-mail: [bartlettlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:bartlettlibrary@comcast.net)  
 On the Web: [www.brentwoodlibrary.org](http://www.brentwoodlibrary.org)  
 Monday 2-7 Thursday 9-5  
 Tuesday 9-5 Friday 9-1  
 Wednesday 9-5 Saturday 9-1  
 Story Hours: Tuesday 10:30 and 2:00 Wednesday 10:30

**SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL**

Phone: 642-3487  
 Swasey on the Web: <http://scs.sau16.org>  
 SAU 16 on the Web: <http://www.sau16.org>

**February recycling Pick-up Dates**

February 2 & 3  
 February 16 & 17

**From the Selectmen's Office**

Please note important Town Meeting date change as included in separate notice in January *Newsletter*.

As noted in a special notice attached to last month's *Newsletter*, the Brentwood Town Meeting will take place on **Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 9am at the Swasey School**. Babysitting will be provided free of charge – no advance notice needed.

**Fire Department Bond Hearing (Correction)**

The Bond Hearing for the proposed building of a new fire station will take place on **Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7pm at the Community Center**.

**Notes from the Town Clerk**

- Absentee ballots will be available in the middle of February.
- A reminder that boat registrations can be done at the Town Clerk's office.
- We take only cash or checks in payment for transactions. If registering a motor vehicle, two checks are needed.
- Dog licenses for 2010 are in.

*Phyllis Thompson, Town Clerk*

**Supervisors of the Checklist**

The Supervisors of the Checklist for the Town of Brentwood, NH, will be in session at the Brentwood **Town Office on Saturday, February 27, 2010, 11am - 12 noon**. This is the last day to accept voter registration applications. No additions or corrections shall be made to the checklist after this date.

*Mary Clancey, for the  
 Supervisors of the Checklist*

**Waste Tonnage Figures**

	November	December
Tons, mixed solid waste	106.72	138.49
Tons, recycled goods	23.17(17.8%)	26.19 (15.9%)

**The January Mailing Crew**

Many thanks on behalf of the town to those in the northern area of Brentwood who prepared the *Newsletter* for mailing: Thirza Lausier, Roger Rousseau, Ken Christiansen, Ellen Christiansen, and Joanne Davis.

*Linda Rousseau, Editor*

**THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER**

Published 11 times a year by the Brentwood Newsletter Committee,  
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 Linda Rousseau, Editor 772-4534  
 Marion Arkell, Treasurer, 772-6314 Ann Chamberlain, 642-8758  
 Jim Clark, 580-1012 Brad Stevens

Business Card Directory: \$20 per insertion, available in April, September & December issues.  
 Business Article: \$100 half page, \$200 full page, available in any issue.

**Deadline for March Issue: Friday, Feb. 19**

Mail or bring your articles to Linda Rousseau, 90 Prescott Road, Brentwood, NH 03833,  
 or e-mail to [lindarou@rcn.com](mailto:lindarou@rcn.com)

### **Fire Station Warrant Article Recommended by Selectmen**

The Selectmen would like to correct an error that was recently printed in the *Exeter News-Letter* regarding the Warrant Article to construct a new fire station. The Board of Selectmen **is recommending** the warrant article for the construction of a new fire station.

The **Bond Hearing** to discuss the above proposed bond issue will take place on **Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 pm at the Brentwood Community Center**, 190 Rte. 125. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

*Brentwood Board of Selectmen*

### **From your Planning Board**

The Brentwood Planning Board is proposing two amendments to the Town's zoning ordinance for consideration by townspeople at this year's Town Meeting. One proposal is to provide new standards for stormwater management. The other proposal is to provide standards for the development of workforce housing.

The **first amendment** is a new **ordinance to control the impacts of stormwater when new developments are approved in town**. Polluted stormwater runoff is the largest cause of water quality problems in our local streams, rivers, and lakes. When it rains, stormwater runoff from buildings, lawns, parking lots, roads, and other developed areas contributes large loads of pollutants (sediment, fertilizers, bacteria, metals, etc.) into our waterways. Rapid population growth and development of the region make this problem much worse and harder to fix. Many miles of the Exeter River and Dudley Brook in Brentwood already fail to meet Clean Water Act standards for support of aquatic life. Clearly, a "business as usual" approach to future land development (and redevelopment) will result in further degradation of the town's water resources. In addition, town governments (i.e. taxpayers) are often shouldered with the costs of addressing road and bridge failures and water quality problems that result from increased runoff from poorly planned developments.

To address these problems, Brentwood's Conservation Commission and Planning Board have worked carefully for over nine months on the development of a Stormwater Management Ordinance for the town that requires new development proposals to meet modern stormwater treatment standards. Brentwood was awarded a Community Technical Assistance Grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership in support of this work. Grant funds were used to hire a stormwater management expert from the consulting firm Vanasse Hangen & Brustlin (VHB), to advise Brentwood on the development of the new

ordinance. The ordinance does not apply to existing single family or duplex residential lots. It is intended to improve development practices primarily for commercial sites and new subdivisions.

The **second amendment** proposed by the Planning Board establishes **development standards to guide the construction of workforce housing**. A new state law became effective in December 2009 that requires every community to provide "reasonable opportunity" for the construction of housing affordable to individuals earning 100 per cent of the median income for a four-person family in Rockingham County. Since the Town's zoning ordinance presently makes no allowance for the construction of this type of housing the Planning Board determined that a zoning amendment that would meet the State's requirements was necessary. Throughout the fall the board reviewed various drafts of the proposal in an effort to insure that the Town's proposal would be both compliant with the new state law and protect the interests of the Town in providing workforce housing. The proposal allows workforce housing to be developed following the same process by which the Town allows age-restricted housing to be developed. Workforce housing proposals must among other requirements, have adequate land area, must protect wetland resources and must include provisions that insure that the units developed remain affordable well into the future.

Residents who are interested in reviewing these proposals before Town Meeting can get copies from the Planning Board office, or on the Planning Board page of the town web site ([www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov)), in the Download section.

*Brentwood Planning Board*

### **Your 2010-11 Budget, Courtesy of the Brentwood Budget Committee**

It is that time of year again, the moment of privilege when we, as taxpayers, get to come together and determine the costs of our local community. According to RSA 32:1, the purpose of the Budget Committee is "to assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds." We are charged with preparing a recommended budget and it is your responsibility and right to authorize it, or not, at our School District Meeting on Saturday, March 6 and at our Town Meeting on Saturday, March 13.

Brentwood's budget is prepared from information provided by the various departments and is comprised of the following sub-budgets: town operating expenses, town warrant articles and bonds, Swasey School operating expenses and Swasey School warrant articles. Although the Exeter Region Coop budget also affects our taxes, our town's municipal budget committee has no authority over its preparation. Your Coop School

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Board and Budget Advisory Committee oversee that budget (see this issue's separate article reviewing the Coop budget and recommendations).

### Projected Expenses

- The town's budget is \$2,719,344, a **decrease of \$79,609 or 2.8%** from last year's budget.
- The town's warrant articles including the Fire Station Bond, total \$2,054,000, a **decrease of \$590,560 or 22%** from last year.
- Swasey School's budget is \$5,192,185, an **increase of \$139,518 or 2.8%** over last year.
- Swasey School has no other warrant articles, no change from last year.

### Projected Revenues

Those of you who balance a budget understand that on the other side of the expense sheet is the revenue or income column. No differently in this budget, we have to realize the offset of the above expenses from tax revenues, property valuations and State revenues. Revenues also depend on new property valuations (property not previously on tax rolls). A number of economic realities are bearing down on our town's revenue status.

Locally, we are very fortunate. As of January, our revenues from paid property taxes are at 90%, comparable to last year. However, the current property valuation is \$520,591,437.00, anticipated to decrease by 10% due to decreased market valuations. This will likely result in an increase in our tax rate for next year, a number unknown until the tax rate setting in November. Revenues from the State are slated to be diminished by reductions in revenue-sharing to municipalities (Meals and Rooms Tax; municipal employee retirement), though the exact redistribution continues to be debated in the House Finance Committee. The town will be obligated to pick up the additional costs associated with a 30% reduction in the state contribution to employee retirement. On the school revenue side, beginning in July 2011 Brentwood will lose a portion of its current adequacy aid and of its special education catastrophic aid.

In summary, there is an expected loss of revenue to the town of Brentwood in the coming year. The Selectmen have prepared for this loss by frugal encumbrances out of the general fund. We can only estimate the tax impact based on current revenue information without knowing unforeseen expenses, revenues and new property.

### Other Business

An amendment to RSA 32 now allows any town to provide the numeric vote tally of a budget committee to be printed with their recommendations next to the article. Our committee voted to include the voting tally this year, so you will see that change on the warrant in this year's Annual Town Report.

### Whose Budget Is It?

By the time you read this, our role in this budget season will have come to a close. I would like to thank the members of this terrific Budget Committee for their work since August, touring the town's departments and facilities, analyzing each and every budget line, communicating respectfully with each other, with Department Heads and with other Boards, and honoring our commitment to contain costs while remaining level-headed in a topsy-turvy economy. With unemployment in the United States at a level not seen in almost thirty years and an overall property valuation that is modest compared to neighboring communities, this Board has been vigilant to not stretch the limits of the community's ability to pay.

The real praise this year goes to the town's department heads. We asked them to consider you first, the taxpayer, and to prepare budgets in a way that meets only current needs, with final numbers at or below last year's bottom line. Your town departments answered the call, with four Department heads either decreasing their own step raises or waiving cost-of-living increases, and most of the other employees receiving only COLAs. A whopping 23 out of 35 departments came in with zero increases or reductions from last year, and believe me, they felt it. This goes beyond dedication. These departments truly deserve our thanks at Town Meeting.

Now it's your turn, but attendance is required! The Swasey School budget is voted on by voters attending School District meeting on Saturday, March 6, 9:00 AM at Swasey School. The Brentwood town budget, bond and warrant articles are voted on by voters attending Town Meeting on Saturday, March 13, 9:00 AM at Swasey School (with free child care). Come to your meetings and vote!

For a complete line-by-line 2010 town budget, go to <http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/budget.php>

*Elyse Seeley, Chair*

### Opening on Brentwood Conservation Commission

The Brentwood Conservation Commission has an opening for a full member and also for alternate members. The Commission was formed at the March 1967 Town Meeting to assist in protecting the natural resources of the town. It advises and makes recommendations for the protection, development and utilization of the local natural resources and open space. It serves as an advisory board to the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) as well as the NH Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau (NH DES).

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The Commission has two broad responsibilities. The first is to evaluate and make recommendations to the NH DES on permit applications to do work in or near wetlands in town. The second is to make recommendations to the Planning Board or ZBA on matters pertaining to wetlands or water-related zoning overlay districts and site plan reviews.

The Conservation Commission and its subcommittee, known as the Open Space Committee, also work with landowners in town to encourage and facilitate the preservation of open space through the acquisition of conservation easements. At the 2003 Town Meeting, the voters approved a \$2,000,000 bond authority to help finance these acquisitions. As of February 2008, we had spent \$1,714,000 of the \$2,000,000 to help purchase 5 easements on over 200 acres. Overall since 2003, 21 new conservation easements have been established, protecting approximately 780 acres. At this time, the Town holds 21 conservation easements covering 680 acres; other agencies including the Southeast Land Trust of NH, the Rockingham County Conservation District and the Society for Protection of NH Forests hold an additional 27 Brentwood easements covering 1109 acres. Approximately 18% of the Town has been protected from further development through these easements and other conservation restrictions.

The Commission is also responsible for the oversight, annual monitoring and enforcement of those conservation easements held by the Town. In recent years the Commission has completed a Natural Resources Inventory to be included in the town's Master Plan, and in 2007 undertook a Prime Wetlands Survey which should be a helpful tool for the Planning Board and ZBA as they consider future land use proposals.

The Conservation Commission has up to seven members and alternates, all volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Terms are typically for three years. For a current roster, please refer to the Town's Annual Report. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Town Office. Residents are welcome to attend all meetings, and anyone interested in serving on the Commission is encouraged to attend a meeting to become acquainted. For further information, please call Rob Wofchuck at (603) 244-8562.

*Rob Wofchuck*

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### **A Note on Brentwood**

With about 1,200 households, the population has nearly quadrupled to 4,200 inhabitants from its earliest count of 1,064 in 1767. Brentwood's 16.97 square miles are seated in the Rockingham County's geographical center and it is home to many of the county's support services.

*Town website [www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov)*

### **From the Town Moderator**

Hello,

My name is Dick Chamberlain. I have been Brentwood's elected Town Moderator since 1979. My wife Ann and I have lived at 15 Crawley Falls Road since 1971. Our sons, Ian and Brett, have grown up in Brentwood.

I thought it would be helpful if I wrote something about the **Duties** of the Moderator in this February issue and something about the Moderator's **Rules of Meeting Order** in the March issue.

#### **The Duties of the Town Moderator are:**

- To conduct all Town, Primary, and Presidential elections held in Brentwood.
- To moderate (chair) our Annual and Special Town Meetings.

#### **I believe that the Primary Criteria for filling the role of Town Moderator are:**

- Fairness and trust...in appearance and reality.
- A basic knowledge and use of parliamentary procedures (which Townspeople can always challenge and change by majority vote!)
- A combination of seriousness and humor.
- The ability to follow discussion and to articulate and summarize what is happening.
- To show respect for Townspeople and for the process.

#### **I have some Convictions about Town Meeting:**

- It should be a time and place of dignity.
- It should accomplish its primary purpose...which is to deal with all Warrant Articles.
- All decisions should be fair decisions.
- The Townspeople and the Moderator work together to accomplish what is necessary.

I consider it a privilege to be your elected Town Moderator. I believe that all of us are fortunate to live in Brentwood...this is a wonderful town. Wonderful because of the beauty of the rural natural habitat, because of the open way town business is conducted, because of the volunteer spirit of Townspeople as evidenced by so much in the way of buildings/programs/activities that can be detailed, because of the openness of discussion about issues of importance.

I hope that you, as a registered voter, will attend and participate in our Saturday, March 13th, 9 AM Town Meeting.

*Dick Chamberlain*

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### **Notice: Public Hearing**

At the Brentwood Community Center, February 16 immediately after the 7 pm Bond Hearing. To discuss a petitioned warrant article regarding the adoption of RSA 40:13 (also known as SB-2).

## **Report from Your State Representative**

The legislature got up and running the morning of January 6. Attendance at the House of Representatives throughout that day averaged about 360, as some 40 members were absent because of illness or other reasons. In 2009 attendance on voting days ranged from about 300 to close to 380. Bad weather can lower attendance, whereas politically highly charged bills can contribute to higher attendance.

A long airing of differences (along party lines) over a change in House rules took up much of the morning. When that was done and bills were considered, some lengthy speeches ensured that the House would have time to vote on only a handful of bills. There is an unwritten "three-minute rule" that ideally should apply to House debates. The idea behind it is that usually three minutes ought to be enough for making a case for or against a bill. But much too often this good-sense self-limitation on speechifying is ignored. Some members seem to believe that every detail of what they want to say is so important that nothing can be left out. And there are some who seem to love the sound of their own voices. All too often a member will drone on and on, seemingly oblivious to the fact that many members have left the chamber and that those who remain have tuned out or become visibly restive. I am not the only one who deplores the waste of time, but we have to put up with it because it is a sacrosanct tradition in the House that no limits are placed on members' right to speak if they stick to the motion that has been made.

Some work got done that day: A bill to mandate state-regulated insurance companies to cover the cost of hearing aids up to \$1500 over three years passed 209\* to 157 (an asterisk after a number shows on which side I voted). A bill to provide that insurance coverage for autistic children be expanded to include certain types of treatment not now covered passed by a similar margin 213\* to 147. These and all other bills passed by the House will go first to Senate committees and subsequently to the Senate to be voted on.

A week later, when the House re-convened it took up the bills that had had been on the calendar but had not come up for a vote on January 6.

- HB 523: Requires DNA testing of all persons convicted of a felony. Passed by voice vote.
- HB 368 would have established new standards, goals, and reporting requirements that home schooling parents would have to follow. The Education Committee had decided that after much study and discussion no changes in the current law should be made, and recommended that the bill be defeated. In a roll call vote the House agreed, 333\*-34.
- HB 341: By a voice vote, the House further clarified the legislature's intention to keep in force the tradition that New Hampshire will continue to be the first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

- HB 304 was modeled on Oregon's "death with dignity law." It would have given people who are dying an option to choose a way to end their suffering by taking a lethal medication prescribed by a physician.

Whether for religious reasons or fear that unscrupulous persons could hasten the death of a relative or belief that the bill was simply poorly written, 242 representatives voted the bill down ("inexpedient to legislate"). Notwithstanding that the bill was a political hot potato, 113\* voted in favor of it. I sided with those who, in speaking in favor of the bill, described what they said were unnecessarily prolonged painful suffering of terminally ill loved ones. Let me say parenthetically that I do not understand how those who trumpet personal freedoms vote in ways that distinctly limit such freedoms.

- Last year live dog racing ended in NH because it was no longer profitable. HB 630, which passed by a voice vote, repeals statutory authority for dog racing and thereby prevents any resumption of the activity.
- In what seems to be a yearly exercise in futility, a bill (HB 642) was introduced to provide major property tax relief by replacing property tax revenue with a form of an income tax. It was overwhelmingly defeated (244-72\*); had it passed, it would have faced almost certain defeat in the Senate or a veto by the governor.

A couple of bills were held over to the next session, January 27. One of them, HB 579, was aimed at teen-agers seeking a driver's license. It would have required them to get a learner's permit before doing any supervised driving, take a road test before being issued a license, and, after, after receiving a "youth license" and before getting a full-fledged license, provide verification that their parent or legal guardian has supervised their driving for at least 40 hours. Backers of the bill cited the continued high rate of teen-age-driver fatalities, while opponents emphasized increased costs to the DMV, and ultimately to taxpayers, and said it would not increase safety. The bill was defeated, 207-148\*.

Last year when a bill they favored was defeated, a group of people who were in the House gallery, and were carrying weapons, reacted by yelling their displeasure and verbally threatening House members. In December a Democratic majority of a joint legislative committee voted to bar "firearms and other deadly or dangerous weapons" from the State House, the Legislative Office Building and one other buildings. A Republican representative has challenged the ruling and will soon introduce a bill to strike it down. He and others say it violates the second amendment. I go along with others who say that support of the second amendment does not preclude sensible limits on weapons in public places, such as, which is now the case, schools and federal buildings. There is bound to be a big hullabaloo when the bill comes to the floor of the House.

***Don Petterson***

Phone: 772-4519

e-mail: [donpetterson@gmail.com](mailto:donpetterson@gmail.com)

Blog: <http://statereport.blogspot.com>

**Simply the Best, Better than All the Rest!**

-Tina Turner

Sometimes the good news is so good that we simply have to share it. Here is some very good news from Swasey Central School:

Did you know about Mrs. O?

Did you know that our very own principal, Joan Ostrowski, just won Elementary Principal of the Year for the whole state of New Hampshire!? Well, she did! Next, she will go on to compete at the national level. Way to go Mrs. O!

Did you know how smart our teachers are? All of our teachers, 100%, are highly qualified in their fields, and 93.5% of our teachers have masters' degrees! This makes us No.1 in New Hampshire, if you count schools that have more than two teachers.

Did you know that with all of this brain power we educate our children for the lowest cost per pupil of all of the six towns in our SAU (approx. \$10,231 each)? The second closest school was over \$1,000 more! Now, that's really using our heads!

Did you know that, due to parental concerns, we tested for radon in the building and found out that we are fine? Thanks to testing done by Mr. Schroeder's 4th grade class and the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, the testing didn't cost anything! The report is available at the school upon request.

Did you know how much we saved on electricity in the school last year? Over 17% (17.27% to be precise)! You may recall that we asked the citizens of the town to support some small warrant articles to upgrade switches and bulbs so that we could be more efficient. The voters agreed, and the savings are now apparent. This was a team effort. A concerned resident brought up, several times, power usage concerns. The school board undertook two studies, one very exhaustive PSNH, at virtually no cost. The findings were explained. The cheapest and easiest remedies yielding the greatest return quickly (under 3 years) were placed on the warrant. The voters agreed with the school board and the budget committee two years ago. The upgrades were made and now, voilà: good choices carefully undertaken with support from the town equals = success.

The school board and staff of Swasey School can't guarantee that we can replicate this level of achievement next year but we will do our best. We hope that you will all come to the School District Meeting on March 6th to learn more.

*Liz Faria for the School Board*

**Achievement** Catherine Anderson, a junior at Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA, made the Dean's List and Honor Roll for the Fall 2009 semester. Her parents are William and Susan Anderson of Dudley Road.

**From your Representative on the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District Budget Advisory Committee**

Info for your ballot vote at town elections on March 9

Again this budget season, your Exeter Regional Coop Budget Advisory Committee worked in conjunction with the SAU 16 Business Office to develop budgets and appropriations that would be practical in the current economic climate, yet responsible with regard to the educational goals of our district.

**Operating Budget**

In spite of good planning and cooperation on the part of administration and the Coop School Board, we were faced with a 22% insurance rate hike which brought our planned budget of -0.21% higher than I anticipated or wanted. The end result was a 1.45% increase from last year's operating budget. This recommended \$48,529,350 budget will appear on the ballot at town elections on March 9. Because it is still lower than the default budget, I recommend that you vote **yes** on the operating budget, as a "no" vote will actually make it even higher! Due to Brentwood's enrollment percentage and anticipated school revenue, these operating costs alone will impact our town with an estimated increase of about 29 cents per \$1000.00 valuation. Just remember: on this year's Coop ballot, on the specific article that designates the operating costs of the Coop School District, a "**NO**" vote increases taxes, because it brings the regional school's operating budget up to last year's default budget with additional contractual costs.

**Collective Bargaining Contracts (2)**

The new administrators' contract (two-year) and the renewal of the teacher contract (three-year) came in right before deadline with a Year One nominal increase, and escalating costs in subsequent years. When you vote this year, it is a vote for all subsequent years. The increased costs of these contracts for this year only adds .27% to the operating budget above, an estimated increase for our town of about 3 cents per \$1000.00 valuation.

**Expendable Trust Fund Warrant Articles (2)**

We voted to fund the Special Education Trust Fund to \$100,000, and the Maintenance Trust Fund to \$80,000, both from the 2010 fund balance. These articles give Brentwood an estimated increase of about 6 cents per \$1000.00 valuation.

On the Coop District warrant, you will also see a *petitioned warrant article* that was initiated in Brentwood to make certain that, in the voter's interest, you will always see the Coop Budget Advisory Committee's recommendations/non-recommendations printed on the warrant when you vote. This is not a "given" when a Budget Committee is "advisory" in structure.

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I hope this is not as clear as mud to the readers. Please feel free to contact me with any specific questions about this budget, or access the Coop Advisory Board minutes online at [www.sau16.org/schools/schoolboards/minutes/coop/ercs/bminutes.htm](http://www.sau16.org/schools/schoolboards/minutes/coop/ercs/bminutes.htm)

*Elyse Seeley*  
Ph: 778-9411

## **Swasey Parent Faculty Group**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 16 at 6:15 p.m.**

In the Swasey School Library. Come and join us! There will be a short video presented before the meeting, "Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present and Plan for the Future- SAU16"; then business will start at 6:30. School Board member Charles Gargaly will make a short presentation and answer questions. Lots of great stuff this month so don't miss it!

**Community Night at Action Kids Athletics:** On March 20 we will have another great night for the kids at Action Kids Athletics! Keep your eyes open for the registration form in the Wednesday folder.

**Sports Equipment Swap:** The Recreation Department and Swasey PFG will hold another equipment swap this spring. Set all of your equipment aside and prepare to get some great deals!

Would you like a **second Swasey Phone Book**? Maybe you need one for your car or your desk at work! Get a second phone book for \$2 in the Main Office.

**Clip those Boxtops!** Check out our website for lots of fun new ways to collect box tops! Have everyone you know clip their Box Tops and send them in!! We can do it!!!

Visit our website for more information:  
<http://swaseypfg.pbworks.com/>.

*Pam Carr*

## **Valentine Buffet**

Pilgrim Church's Annual Valentine Buffet will be held on **Saturday, February 13** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (Continuous Seating). This delightful event will feature fresh carved ham, turkey and roast beef, a salad bar, and much more, including a variety of Homemade Desserts. All of this makes the **Valentine Buffet** a great midwinter event. Tickets will only be sold at the door and are \$10 per person. The church is located at 197 Route 111A (Middle Road) in Brentwood. For more information call the church office at 778-3189.

*Gene Orcutt*  
[orc416@surfglobal.net](mailto:orc416@surfglobal.net)

## **Friends of the Library**

Thanks to all who came to visit **Santa Claus** at the Mary Bartlett Library. Both children and adults were well-behaved under the watchful eyes of St. Nick and his elves! Thanks, too, to those elves for helping out that day.

The **Basement Book Store** will be closed while the downstairs floor is being finished. We hope to re-open when the floor is done or when the weather is warm enough. Keep an eye on this space for updates! In the meantime, there remains a collection of books available for sale upstairs.

Thanks to the crafters who participated in The Christmas Craft Fair, providing a wonderful shopping opportunity to visitors at the Library. A bigger thanks to those who supported those crafters and purchased items. The Friends were able to raise over \$400 from this fair, money which will be used to purchase books for the children's room.

Brentwood resident Tracie May will bring 20+ years of **financial services experience to a workshop series on *The Financially Fit Family***. Every other Wednesday night in March and April a different financial topic will be explored. Take your financial fitness evaluation and gain confidence with five financial "workouts": strengthening the inner core (goal planning for short and long-term needs), building muscle (budgeting for fixed and variable expenses), improving endurance (savings, investments and taxes), improving flexibility (planning for the unexpected – illness, unemployment), and maintaining balance (plan for the future - yours and others). This will be a great chance to evaluate your financial needs and better prepare for the future. Check with the Library or read this article next month for exact dates and sign up information.

Join us on **Thursday, February 18 at 7 pm** for "**An Adventure Trip to Labrador City and Quebec**", presented by Rick Little of Shadcreek Flies. View photos of the villages along the north shore of the St. Lawrence and the road from Baie Comeau to Labrador City, with aerials of the Quebec forests. (Snow date February 25). On **Wednesday, February 24**, bring the children to the library at **10:30 am** for a visit from our friends at Wildlife Encounters. You'll get up close and personal with some of the most exotic mammals in Northern New England! All ages welcome.

Congratulations to Jessica Matson, raffle winner of the **Treasure Basket** finely hand-crafted by Dave Gibson. Congratulations also to the Sughrue and Danielson families, who won the two incredible **Gingerbread Houses** created and decorated by the Kennish family. The work put into these items, and the generosity of Mr. Gibson and the Kennish family for donating – is greatly appreciated! We thank all who purchased tickets for the chance to own these great items.

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Continued from page 8

We appreciate all the donations we have received from our annual Membership Drive. As you know we were able to Beat the Benefactor again, a feat which amazes me when so many people have been affected with job loss, etc. We are pleased to be able to use these funds to provide more great programming to our residents.

Don't forget to take advantage of the Pass Programs offered through The Friends. February vacation is a great time to head to Boston, as Mass. students will have had their vacation the week before. The next time you are at the Library, take a look at all of the passes for the **Museum of Fine Arts** ([www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)), **Museum of Science** ([www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org)) or the **Children's Museum of Boston** ([www.bostonkids.org](http://www.bostonkids.org)). If you'd rather stay closer to home, I can suggest **Strawbery Banke Museum** ([www.strawberybanke.org](http://www.strawberybanke.org)) in Portsmouth, the **McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center** (<http://www.starhop.com/>) in Concord or the **NH Farm Museum** in Milton ([www.farmmuseum.org](http://www.farmmuseum.org)).

The Friends of the Library **monthly meeting** for February will be on **Thursday, February 4** at 9:30 am. We will begin discussing details of The Brentwood Gathering, as well as other activities we promote. We'd love to hear your ideas! All are welcome. Meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of each month. Next month's date is set for **March 4**. If you would like to receive an email reminder about upcoming meetings, please send an email to [marybartlett76@yahoo.com](mailto:marybartlett76@yahoo.com) and I will gladly include you on our email list.

*Michelle Siudut, Publicity*

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## Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

Electricity bills off the charts? Thanks to [nhsaves.com](http://nhsaves.com) in partnership with the New Hampshire State Library, we can loan you a Kill A Watt Energy Detector so you can find out exactly how much electricity each device is using. You can save!

The **Friday Night Flick for February 12** is **Two Brothers**, the story of twin tiger cubs separated by fate. One is sent to the circus and the other becomes a family pet. When circumstances change, they both end up being trained to become the fierce fighters nature has made them. The vacation week film on **the 26th** is **The Pagemaster**, an amazing adventure full of color and action with Macaulay Culkin and Christopher Lloyd.

The **book discussion** scheduled for Monday, **February 22**, same time, same place is **Double Bind** by **Chris Bohjalian**. This should be an intriguing discussion book as it concerns a brutal attack on a young woman and the resulting consequences to her life as well as the lives of others.

Don't forget, if we have a rainy (or snowy) day during vacation week, we will be showing a surprise

movie at 10:30. Watch your e-mail for an early morning heads-up. If you have not yet given us your e-mail address, you could really make us very happy by doing so. We like to let you know about events, of course, but the savings for us for overdue postage are huge. Less postage means more good stuff for you to take out.

March is probably not the best of months to enjoy **New Hampshire's covered bridges** in person, so why not come to our program on **March 4 at 7:00**, featuring **Glenn Knoblock** who knows all there is to know about our state's bridges. Then, armed with all sorts of vital knowledge, you can take pleasure in your own excursion of the historic bridges in a month when the weather is more conducive to tourism.

Thanks to the New Hampshire Humanities Council, Mr. Knoblock will acquaint his audience with the design and technology of the bridges, as well as the associated folklore. There will be images of some of the four hundred covered bridges in this state, many of which were designed by New Hampshire natives. Join us!

Congratulations to our own Swasey School principal, Joan Ostrowski, for being chosen as the Elementary School Principal of the Year for 2010. All of us at the library are very proud of Joan for this outstanding accomplishment.

*Marilyn Morehead, Library Director*

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## Brentwood Seniors

At the January 27th meeting the Seniors welcomed several men who were either newcomers or had not attended for some time. It was a good day to be present, for the pot luck luncheon was excellent and everyone had a grand old time during the "Pound Party" auction afterward. President Gene Orcutt acted as auctioneer, assisted by Sandy Thorsell, the new Program Chairperson. Members contributed to the fun and the interest by being creative and donating some fine items in the mystery bags. When it was all over the treasury had received a needed injection of funds.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 24** at the Community Center, again a pot luck luncheon. Members should arrive between 11 and 11:30 am to help with set-up and have appetizers. The business meeting will begin at 11:30, and lunch will be served thereafter. At the business meeting members will vote on the proposal to have some meetings be morning meetings, with time to linger afterward to play board games. The speaker after lunch on the 24th will be Kristie Hammami of the Rockingham County Nursing Home, providing details about the Adult Day Care program at the County Home. New members are always welcome in the Seniors, and do not have to be residents of Brentwood to join. For more information call Eugene Orcutt, president, at 642-4597.

*Linda Rousseau for the Seniors*

## **Brentwood's 9th Annual After-Christmas Tree Limo Fundraiser**

Many thanks, once again, to Christmas Tree Limo drivers Jim Austin, Craig Seeley, Richie Downing and son Nick Downing, Matt Eaton and Verne Rines: this year they raised \$760 by collecting trees from residents and hauling them away. We also received a cash donation from a resident who will enjoy one heck of a bonfire! In appreciation for their time, vehicle use and volunteer spirit, the drivers each received a free car wash courtesy of Flynn's Car Care on Portsmouth Avenue in Exeter.

Since our drivers donate their time and vehicles, there are no expenses, and all proceeds are held in an account as a Brentwood community grant. The fundraiser raised \$560 last January; however, since no applications were received there is now a total of \$1320.00 in the fund. Like Santa, the *Tree Limo* is in the business of giving, so don't let this money stay in the bank for another year!

If you are a Brentwood community organization or service and need short funds for a specific project, you can apply for this grant and use it to enhance your organization and our community. You DO NOT need to be a 501-3C organization, but if you are, you may be eligible for matching grants as well.

Grant applications are now available at the Brentwood town offices and at the library. You can also e-mail [treelimo@comcast.net](mailto:treelimo@comcast.net) with the word "Application" in the subject line to print an application.

The grant's criteria are simple:

- Targeted use of funds exclusively for Brentwood community or a Brentwood-based organization
- Imminent need for funds (within one year)
- Financial hardship
- Restricted resources

There is a new May 1 deadline, and award notification is June 1.

*Elyse Seeley*

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## **Read for Relief – Supporting Haitian Relief Efforts**

Heather Beaulieu, local Barefoot Books Ambassador and a Brentwood resident, is sponsoring an online event to raise funds for Haitian relief efforts. When you make a purchase to support this event, **100% of the profits will be donated to UNICEF and will be allocated for use in Haiti.** You can learn more about Barefoot Books and make a purchase to support the UNICEF fundraiser by heading to [www.hbplay.barefoot-books.com](http://www.hbplay.barefoot-books.com). Click on the "Support This Event" link next to the UNICEF symbol at the bottom of the page and then make your selections. This event will only be running for the next few weeks to ensure that funds are sent to Haiti as soon as possible.

This is a wonderful chance to purchase a book from Barefoot's World Cultures section and spend time reading to and talking with your children about our part in the global community. During this event, Heather has displayed some of her favorite Barefoot Books about other cultures in the My Favorites section on her webpage.

Right now, UNICEF is distributing clean water and sanitation supplies, therapeutic foods, medical supplies and temporary shelter to Jacmel and Port-au-Prince. UNICEF will also be focusing on children who have become separated from their families, to protect them from harm or exploitation. UNICEF was established in 1946. They have the global authority to influence decision-makers, and the variety of partners at grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality." To find out more about UNICEF's emergency aid in Haiti please visit <http://www.unicefusa.org/news/news-from-the-field/>.

Barefoot Books is based in Cambridge, Mass. Their commitment to developing children's imaginations, and helping them to learn about other cultures and become good stewards of the earth, is what inspired Heather to become an Ambassador. If you have additional questions about this event or Heather's work with Barefoot Books, you can contact her at (603) 580-2609 or email [discoverbarefoot@comcast.net](mailto:discoverbarefoot@comcast.net).

*Heather Beaulieu*

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## **Brentwood Gardeners**

The Gardeners had another marvelous meeting on January 27 at the Community Center. To begin with, It was our annual Chili Night. Members brought chili con carne, vegetarian chili, all the right condiments, salads, and desserts. It was all attractively set out on the counter by Al and Sharon Franklin, our hospitality chairmen, and everyone served themselves to a very tasty meal.

The guest speaker was Thomas Berger, landscape designer and stonework artist, whose company is known as Green Art, in Kittery, Maine. ([www.greenart.com](http://www.greenart.com)). With a smooth PowerPoint presentation he emphasized his goal of always blending in with the architecture and landscape he is working with. He also stressed that whether working with plants, stone walkways or walls, the preparation of the soil underneath is of first importance, and often the largest percentage of the cost involved.

The Gardeners will meet next **on Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 pm at the Community Center.** The guest speaker will be Bill Holt of WillowMist Grasses in Stratham, giving us the latest on ornamental grasses for our lawns and gardens. The public is welcome to attend, and new members are always welcome. For information call Diantha Wade, president, 772-5217.

*Linda Rousseau for the Gardeners*

## Recreation News

### Baseball / Softball Sign-Ups

Even though winter is still very much with us, we're looking ahead to Spring already! Baseball and Softball registration have begun. **The deadline for sign-ups will be February 22.** Forms will be available at the Recreation office or on our website.

<b>T-Ball</b> (5 & 6 yr. by 9/30/09)	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Farm</b> (7yr. by 4/30/10)	<b>\$40</b>
<b>AAA</b> (8 & 9 yr. by 4/30/10)	<b>\$40</b>
<b>U10, U12 &amp; U14 Softball</b>	<b>\$65</b>
(8yr. by 1/1/2010)	



Little League (10 yrs. and up) and Babe Ruth registration will be through EJBL and Exeter Babe Ruth [www.leaguelineup.com/ejbl](http://www.leaguelineup.com/ejbl)

Players interested in Senior Babe Ruth, please contact the Recreation office.

There will be a **\$10 late registration fee** and forms will only be accepted as roster space allows.



### Adult Volleyball

Our Adult pick-up volleyball program is on Monday evenings at 7:30pm through March 29\*. We will be playing at the

Swasey School gym. Participation is FREE.

\*(There will be no Volleyball on the days the school is not open)

### Foxwoods Trip

The next trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino will be **Monday, March 22.** The cost is **\$35 per person.** Trip includes: coffee/doughnuts on the way down and water/snack on the way back; free \$15 bet; free buffet lunch. Please mail in your sign-up information with check, or contact the office to sign up.



### Discounted Manchester Monarch Hockey Tickets

We have discounted Manchester Monarch Hockey tickets available for the **Sunday, March 7th** game at the Verizon Wireless Arena. **All tickets are \$11** (regularly \$16/adult and \$12/child). You can pick up tickets at the Recreation Office.



### Men's Basketball

Our Men's 30+ Pick-up Basketball program continues on Thursday evenings 7:30-9:00pm at the Phillips Exeter Academy gym in Exeter. **Cost is \$10/evening.** Call for more information.

### Yoga Classes

**Tuesday evenings 6:30 to 7:45 PM**  
**Brentwood Recreation Center**

All-levels yoga classes, taught by Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor, Wilhelmina Bradley, RYT.

### **\*Beginning February 2 \***

**Six weeks for \$48**

**\$10 drop-in**



These will be yoga classes for anyone who has already experienced yoga, as well as for someone who would like to try yoga for the first time. Dress in comfortable clothing for this hour-and-fifteen-minute class to enjoy the benefits of yoga for strength, flexibility, and for stress-reduction in your life. **Come join us!**

### Tang Soo Do Classes

Tang Soo Do is a Korean Martial Art that emphasizes whole-body self defense and physical training. It is a true Martial Art comprising both hard and soft techniques. Training in Tang Soo Do is beneficial for self discipline, self defense and health. Classes are taught by Retired Law Enforcement officer Bob Meegan. He is currently a 3rd degree Black Belt with the World Tang Soo Do Association.

Classes are available Monday and Friday at the Brentwood Community Center, **6:30-8:00pm**

Enrollment is continual, so you may begin at any point.

**Cost:** \$50/single per month

\$90/family per month (2 or more)

For more information contact instructor Bob Meegan at 742-3565 or contact the Recreation office.

### **The Cribbage Group has a new night!**

#### Cribbage Group

We now meet on **Wednesday** evenings at 7pm. Our group meets at the Brentwood Community Center on Route 125 for a fun, casual evening of cribbage playing. If you would like to join us or just want more information, please contact: Ursula Mackey at [ucbm@comcast.net](mailto:ucbm@comcast.net) or 603-642-9178. A \$1 donation is appreciated. **All are welcome!**

### Facilities Rental

Remember there are still weekday and weekend dates available at the Community Center. Consider having your meeting, birthday party, shower, or other events at our facility. Brentwood residents receive a 50% discount off the rental rates! See our website for pictures of the Center and rental application or pick up an application at the Recreation office.

Check out the Recreation pages on the town website, [www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov). Forms are there to be downloaded for your convenience, as well as other important information about current programs and events.

**Margaret Dullea, Recreation Director**

(603) 642-6400 ext. 20

[recreation@brentwoodnh.gov](mailto:recreation@brentwoodnh.gov)

Office hours: Mon. Tues. & Thurs. 8:30am-3:30 pm.

Commission meetings 4th Tuesday night of the month at 6:30 pm.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Feb. 4 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library  
**Coop School Deliberative Session – 7:00 pm, Exeter High School**  
 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 8 School Board meeting – 6:15 pm, Swasey School  
**Public Hearing for Brentwood Town and School Budgets, 7:00 pm, Swasey School Gym**
- Feb. 9 Historical Society visit to the Fremont Museum – 4:00 pm  
 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 10 Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 11 Ladies Auxiliary – 7:00 pm, Fire Hall
- Feb. 12 **Friday Night Flick** at the Library – 7:00 pm, "Two Brothers."
- Feb. 13 **Winter Farmers' Market – 10 am – 2 pm, Exeter High School**  
**Valentine Buffet – 5:30-7:00, Pilgrim Church, Middle Road. Continuous seating**
- Feb. 16 Parent Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library  
**Public Bond Hearing for proposed Fire Station – 7:00 pm, Community Center, 190 Route 125**  
**Immediately following: Public Hearing for petitioned warrant article to adopt RSA 40:13**
- Feb. 17 **Candidates Night – 7:30 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building**
- Feb. 18 Planning Board – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 22 Library Trustees – 6:00 pm, Bartlett Library  
 Book Discussion Group – 7:00 p.m., Bartlett Library. "Double Bind."
- Feb. 23 Recreation Commission – 6:30 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Office Building  
 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 24 Brentwood Seniors – 11:30 a.m., Community Center – Kristie Hammami on Adult Day Care  
 Brentwood Gardeners – 7:00 p.m., Community Center – Bill Holt on ornamental grasses
- Feb. 26 **Friday Night Flick** at the Library – 7:00 p.m. "The Pagemaster."
- Feb. 27 Supervisors of the Check List in session – 11:00 am 12 noon, Town Office
- Mar. 1 Trails Committee – 7:00 p.m., Town Office Building  
 Firemen's Association – 7:30 pm, Fire house
- Mar. 2 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Mar. 3 Cemetery Trustees – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building
- Mar. 4 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library  
**"New Hampshire's Covered Bridges"- Glenn Knoblock, speaker, 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library**  
 Planning Board meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building

**The public is welcome at all above events**

The Brentwood Newsletter  
 c/o Linda Rousseau, Editor  
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